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ROOMS THAT ARE PASSAGEWAYS

Either to save building costs or for convenience in heating, a good many houses are built in such a way that the family always has to go through one room to get to other rooms. When the main entrance is directly into the living room and doors then open to other rooms, the use of the living-room as a passageway is not especially objectionable. This plan often makes it possible to have a larger living-room than otherwise.

But very often the back door opens into the kitchen and everyone coming in that way must cross the room to reach other parts of the house. Another common arrangement is to place the bedrooms beyond other bedrooms so that they can be reached only by going through the first room. Again, if there is only one bathroom for the entire house, it is a mistake to locate it where it can be reached only by going into a bedroom. A bathroom opening off the kitchen also causes additional passing through that room.

In studies of the best ways to modernize farm houses, the Bureaus of Agricultural Engineering and Home Economics in the U.S.Department of Agriculture have found some arrangements for lessening the passageway uses for rooms or obviating such use.

In the case of kitchens, one of the simplest solutions is to group all the work centers and main equipment in the part of the room

not crossed by persons on their way to the front part of the house. Or, it may be possible to close up a doorway entirely and cut one in another place.

Sometimes by interchanging the use of two rooms, continual passing through one of them is eliminated. In a one-room house in the South, the architects found the owner had planned to add two bedrooms in front, opening into each other, with the second one opening into a kitchen behind it. The plan called for a fireplace in the bedroom farthest from the kitchen. This would cause this room to be used as a general living-room but make it necessary to go through the bedroom to reach the kitchen. Locating the chimney in the middle of the house between the kitchen and the other bedroom, and building the fireplace into this bedroom made it usable as a living room and gave the other front room complete privacy. The chimney served both the kitchen range and the living-room fireplace.

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